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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1964.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole. It is satisfactory to note that there was no infantile death or stillbirth for the second year running.

There was no increased incidence in any of the notifiable communicable diseases.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health

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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 3

Area - 1,078 acres
Rateable value: 1st April, 1964 - £130,753
Production of a penny rate: 1963/64 - £490 (est)
1964/65 - £528 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 3,290

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		Comparative Rates (a) Shaftesbury Borough	(b) England & Wales
Total	25	23	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.6	14.5	18.2
Illegitimate	1	2			

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbriths = Nil	Nil	18.1

DEATHS

Total	24	24	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 14.6	11.4	12.2

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	20.9

	1963	1962	1961	1960
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	1	2	2	1
" " Other Cancer	10	8	7	8
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	10	5	15	13
" " Other Heart or Vascular disease	17	16	14	18
" " Influenza	1	1	1	1
" " Pneumonia	1	1	1	1
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	1	Nil	Nil
" " Suicide	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts. Its principal industries and trades include glove making, and the local central depots for the Southern Electricity Board and Post Office Engineers are stationed there. A Government Radio Station is also within its boundaries A laundry and egg packing station are recent acquisitions in the Borough. Plans are in hand for further industrial development.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Westminster Memorial Hospital of the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board provides local hospital facilities, both in-patient and out-patient.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided by the County Council using the St. John Ambulance Brigade as its agent. An efficient service has been maintained throughout the year.

Laboratory Services

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Opthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society and the Silver Thread Club.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations

Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation clinic was held regularly at the Shaftesbury Clinic on the second Thursday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

	1963	1962	1961
Poliomyelitis			
Two treatments (Salk)	-	5	102
Three treatments (Salk or	81	121	220
Four treatments Oral)	77	17	243
Diphtheria			
Primary treatments	28	50	49
Booster treatments	17	28	17
Whooping Cough			
Primary treatments	21	36	30
Booster treatments	2	-	-
Tetanus			
Primary treatments	35	72	62
Booster treatments	11	15	7
Smallpox			
Primary vaccinations	12	127	50
Re-vaccinations	10	257	8

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - William Norman Teasdale, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I.,Certificate of R.S.H. and P.I.E.J.B. Certificate of R.S.H. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Technical Assistant (Part time) - Philip Stroud

WATER SUPPLY

All properties in the Borough are served by a public water supply with the exception of one property having a satisfactory private supply. Twenty-one properties (thirty four persons) are, howevers, still served by standpipe supplies.

The public supply is provided by the South and West Wilts Water Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between Officers of your Council and those of the Board. Regular sampling of the supply at source, by the Board and, in the course of distribution, by your Officers has been carried out.

Apart from the serious difficulties experienced during the severe 'freeze-up' in January and February, there has been a satisfactory supply of water throughout the year, both in quantity and quality.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Apart from the completion of housing estate sewers and certain adjustments to complete the main town sewerage reconstruction, there has been very little extension to the sewerage of the town during 1963.

Because of the renewal of the old sewers in the town centre and the diversion of the drainage of the Littledown - Grosvenor Road area from Paynes Place to Holyrood Farm, the volume of sewage being received at this latter area has more than doubled. It is not being dealt with adequately and there is no dount that it is reaching the ditches and streams to the south. With the expansion of the town (some ninety new houses alone have been occupied in the past three years) the quantity of sewage to be dealt with at the disposal areas will continue to increase every year, and the disposal problem will become progressively worse. Inevitably, this will lead to an increase in the problem of pollution, not only at Holyrood Farm but also at Enmore Green and Long Cross, where complaints against the prevailing conditions are raised annually.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have submitted a report on the matter and are preparing a further report, amplifying a previous report made many years ago. It is to be hoped that this more recent report will lead to an alleviation of the present conditions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly curb side collection is carried out with 'so-called' controlled tipping on to an already overloaded refuse tip which continues to give rise to smoke and fly nuisance and rat infestation in spite of the control measures taken.

No site for a new tip is available in the Borough and no arrangements were made during the year for joint refuse disposal with a neighbouring authority.

The covering of refuse at the tip has been helped during the past year by the amount of soil available from the excavations of the sewer contract and the increased amount of housing estate development, but it has also had the effect of accelerating the build-up of the mount of refuse at Salisbury Road. This mount has reached such proportions that it should be closed and levelled off and another tipping area found, otherwise the unsightly approach to the town from the east is going to get worse each year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Preliminary surveys have been carried out by officers of the River Board following the Councils applications made under the River (Prevention of Pollution) Act to discharge sewage effluent.

SHOPS ACT

The Borough Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Shops Act, 1950 within the Borough.

No. of inspections carried out	128
No. of defects found	10
No. of notices served	6
No. of notices complied with	6

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on Register	Inspections
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	2	8
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	89
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	8	12
Total -	35	109

No. of cases in which defects were -	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences		
Insufficient	-	-
Unsuitable or Defective	2	2
Total -	3	3

No. of Outworkers (Wearing apparel) - 83

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough provided by the Council.

The bacterial purity of the water continued to be good, although the poor summer weather tended to increase the algae growth, with a consequential more frequent emptying and cleaning of the baths. This operation of the bath is likely to remain until such times as an improved pumping and filtration system

is installed. The present system of filtration makes difficult the keeping of the bath clean, bearing in mind the great use to which the bath is put, particularly by children.

The surrounds of the bath were completely renewed and the damage caused by the severe winter conditions was rectified before the season commenced.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No application was received during the year for a licence under the above Act.

Certain Informal action was taken against certain isolated and indiscrimate siting of caravans which may well have to be followed by more formal action.

Although there appears to be no immediate demand for caravan sites in the Borough, a convenient and well planned site, off A 30 route, would be of particular benefit to tourists on the way to Devon and Cornwall. The provision of such sites will become essential if the present habit of parking overnight on roadside verges with its potential public health hazard is to be prevented.

The Council have indicated that it would encourage any prospective developer in providing a properly planned site in a suitable situation but, apart from a few tentative enquiries, no firm scheme has been forthcoming.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for or taken, during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the above Act are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee.

Co-operation with Officers of the Committee has been well maintained and their work is much appreciated. The fact that complaints of infestation are so few and far between is an excellent recommendation for the work of prevention which is being carried out. In fact, so effective is the scheme that the results are in danger of being taken for granted.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

The standard of hygiene generally is high both in the school canteens and boarding houses.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for under these Acts during the year in connection with the compulsory removal of an old person who required care and attention, to an Institution or Hospital.

HOUSING

Little progress has been made with regard to slum clearance during the year, action only having been taken in respect to two 'unfit' houses. Little can usefully be done until the Council is in a position to rehouse those living in 'unfit' dwellings.

Although the Council rehoused sixteen new families during the year it is of serious significance that not one of these were families from houses already accepted as being unfit by the Council.

House Inspections

Total number of houses in the district	1,203

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	320
No. of inspections made	514
No. of informal notices served	65
No. of informal notices complied with	61
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 _____ 2

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made _____ Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure _____ Nil
Reconditioning _____ Nil
Other Action _____ 2

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year _____ Nil

Overcrowding

No. of cases of statutory overcrowding found during the year _____ 2

No. of cases of overcrowding abated _____ Nil

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings.

Rehousing

Sixteen families were rehoused by the Council during the year, compared with twenty during the preceding year.

New Housing

Thirty eight new dwellings were provided during the year by private enterprise, none by the Council.

Housing Applications

At the end of the year there were one hundred and eighteen applicants accepted on the Council's housing waiting list, of which eighty four were resident in the Borough and thirty four resident outside the Borough.

Improvement Grants

Four applications for 'standard' and eight for 'discretionary' grants were received during the year, compared with three and seven respectively in the preceding year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council _____ 5

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 (Cont)

No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration	Nil
No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration	7

Samples

Thirty five samples of milk in the Borough were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises

The efficiency of a public health department can be measured by the extent to which the supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold, is carried out. Where such premises cannot be inspected at least twice a year, with any necessary follow up visits, the department is failing to carry out its normal duty.

I regret that I have to report that this standard is not maintained in your district.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	29
Canteens - School and workplace	9
Confectioners	6
Meat and Fish	7
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	-
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	2
Food factories	2
Stalls	-
Other	10

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	16
Sausages & prepared meats	3
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of premises inspected during the year	60
No. of inspections carried out	226

Food Inspection

Butchers' Shops and Other Premises

As the only slaughterhouse in the area closed at the end of 1962 no meat inspection was carried out during the year, and only a very small quantity of offal required condemnation at the butchers' shops.

Other Foods

The total quantity of foodstuffs condemned during the year was as follows:-

Pork offal	$6\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Tinned meat	$54\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Tinned fruit	$81\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Tinned vegetables	$33\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Tinned fish	$9\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Other foodstuffs	6	lbs.
	191	lbs

In the main, this total was taken up in the condemnation of two accumulations of tinned and other goods, where the retailer was seeking to substantiate his claim against his wholesaler.

Slaughterhouses There is no slaughterhouse, now, in the Borough.

Basement Bakehouses

There is one basement bakehouse in the town which is licensed for use under the Factories Act, 1937 in so far as the premises are considered suitable for the purpose for which they are used.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	3,037
Total No. of informal notices served	318
Total No. of informal notices complied with	263
Total No. of statutory notices served	2
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

Any information available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out, by Central Departments, suggests that no material deterioration in the position has taken place during the year.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

Disease	Total Cases Notified
Measles	7
Scarlet Fever	1

Tuberculosis -

New Cases Notified	
Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
1	-

Food Poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.